

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and new claim 8 is added. The specification is amended to correct informalities.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4-6 contain allowable subject matter. New claim 8 corresponds to dependent claim 4 placed in independent form. Thus, claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that a patent based on the originally filed claims was granted in a corresponding European patent application.

Applicants' independent claim 1 is directed to a gas insulated switchgear assembly or component of a gas insulated switchgear assembly arranged inside of a building. An outdoor bushing through which at least one high voltage carrying conductor can be passed, is arranged outside of the building. A surge arrester is arranged essentially parallel to the outdoor bushing and is connected to the high voltage carrying conductor and/or to the top part of the outdoor bushing via a high voltage side connection piece and to the foot part of the outdoor bushing and/or to the housing of the gas insulated switchgear assembly or the component of the gas insulated switchgear assembly via a housing side connection piece.

Such features encompass Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 1, wherein gas insulated switchgear assembly 1 is arranged inside of the building 2. Tubular outdoor bushings 6 are arranged outside of the building. Conductors 7 are passed through the outdoor bushings. A surge arrester 8 is arranged essentially parallel to the outdoor bushing 6 and is connected to the high

voltage carrying conductor 7 via high voltage side connection piece 9 and to the foot of the outdoor bushing 6 via the housing side connection piece 10. As discussed in Applicants' as filed specification in the paragraph beginning at line 9, page 2, because of this arrangement a separate frame to which a surge arrester is fitted is no longer required, resulting in cost advantages and a reduction in the amount of space required.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,460,937 to Kamata et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Kamata patent is directed to a circuit breaker 1 including a grounded tank 2 containing the breaking section and filled with an insulating gas. A lightning arrester 28, which together with the internal element 33, is accommodated in a tank 30 together with insulating gas. The Kamata patent does not disclose a gas insulated switchgear assembly or component of a gas insulated switchgear assembly arranged inside of the building and an outdoor bushing arranged outside of the building, as in Applicants' independent claim 1. The Office Action states that the device taught by the Kamata patent differs from the claims by not being said to have the arrester connected to the top and bottom of the outdoor bushing of the switchgear essentially parallel to the bushing. However, the Kamata patent does not disclose any such outdoor bushing in combination with the other features of claim 1.

Thus, Applicants' independent claim 1 is distinguishable over the Kamata reference.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. For example, dependent claim 2 recites, in the case of a gas insulated switchgear assembly

having a wall bushing and an adjoining outdoor bushing, the surge arrester is alternatively connected to the foot of the wall bushing via the housing side connection piece. The Kamata patent does not disclose a wall bushing in combination with the other claimed features of dependent claim 2.

Early and favorable action with respect to the this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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